REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006. In that Office Action, claims 12-14 and 19-35 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 12-14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting; claims 12-14, 19, 20, 27-29, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson et al. (USPN 5,761,505), hereinafter "Golson," in view of Naito et al. (US 2001/10029530), hereinafter "Naito;" and claims 21-26, 30, and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson in view of Naito, and further in view of Burkett et al. (USPN 6,678,889), hereinafter "Burkett." Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following amendments and remarks.

In this Response, claims 12-14 have been amended; no claims have been canceled; and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 12-14 and 19-35 are present for examination.

Interview Summary

Applicants would like to than Examiner Cindy Nguyen for her time and input in a telephone interview held with Applicants' representative, Tadd Wilson, on October 24, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner and Mr. Wilson discussed a summary of the invention, how the invention differed from the cited prior art and suggested claim amendments. The amendments discussed are essentially as presented above. Both Examiner and Mr. Wilson believe that the interview and suggested claim amendments will forward the application to allowance.

Double Patenting

Claims 12-14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer, which renders the double patenting rejection moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-14, 19, 20, 27-29, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson in view of Naito. Applicants respectfully traverse the section 103 rejections for all claims. Applicants respectfully suggest that the Examiner has failed to prove a prima facie case of obviousness because one or more of the requirements of a prima facie case are absent. Indeed, a prima facie case can only be met when **all** of the following requirements are met: (1) the combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations; (2) there must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves (or in the knowledge available to those skilled in the art) to combine the references; and (3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. See MPEP §§ 706.02(j) and 2143. Indeed, Golson in view of Naito do not teach all the claim limitations. Golson and Naito, either alone or in combination, fail to teach two or more managers, wherein each manager stores relevant information in a dedicated manager data store and storing the first portion of the search information in a first manager data store and storing the second portion of the search information in a second manager data store.

Golson fails to teach two or more managers that store different information in a dedicated manager data store and, since the managers are different, use the stored information differently. Golson teaches two different modules, the task manager and the reconciliator, which function as a single manager, that is, both the task manager and the reconciliator accomplish the same task.

See Golson, col. 2, lines 40-47 ("The global resource management system includes a task manager and a reconciliator, which both work together in each computer system to ensure that the global resource configuration of the network, as viewed by the respective computer system, is maintained up-to-date, automatically and reliably. The task manager is adapted to receive and execute a configuration task."). Indeed, the task manager only completes configuration tasks. *See Golson* col. 5, lines 23-27 ("[T]he SAM 35 interacts with the user to receive global configuration changes, verifies configuration task inputs, and *forwards the configuration task inputs to the task manager 34 for execution*."(emphasis added)). Further, the reconciliator performs the same tasks, configuration tasks, but at a later time. *See Golson*, col. 6, lines 48-50 ("The reconciliator 36 ensures that the current global configuration state of its corresponding computer system 14 is up-to-date and accurate."). As such, the reconciliator and the task manager operate as a single manager, completing configuration operations either in real time or during a future boot process. Golson does not describe two or more managers, especially managers that perform different tasks.

Further, Golson, similar to the prior art discussed in the previous office action response, provides a *single data store*, which stores all task information. *See Golson*, col. 5, lines 58-63 ("[T]he global resource data base 48 maintains a plurality of resource objects 37a-37b, each pertaining to a resource that is in the domain, and provides information to the task manager 34 and the reconciliator 36 regarding the configuration state of each resource, based upon the resource objects 37."). Golson does not separately store information in separate data stores related to the different managers, but the task manager and the reconciliator both access a single data store, the global resource database. *See Golson*, col. 5, lines 58-63; col. 7, lines 36-38. Thus, Golson does not describe storing the first portion of the search information in a first

manager data store and storing the second portion of the search information in a second manager data store.

Naito does not overcome the lack of description in Golson. Naito describes a single resource manager, similar to Golson. *See Naito*, Abstract ("A network system comprising a plurality of peripheral devices, a resource updating apparatus for updating resources used by the peripheral devices and a resource manager apparatus for managing the resources being respectively connected via a network is provided. The resource manager apparatus comprises means for storing setting information indicating relation between each of the peripheral devices and resources set thereon..."). Thus, Naito also does not describe two or more managers.

Naito also does not describe separate data stores. Naito discusses storing information but fails to describe a storage arrangement having data stores dedicated to each manager. *See Naito*, para. 220 ("In step S3502, the acquired information is *registered in management information*. For example, in management information of FIG. 34A, if resource specifying information has the same data for a newly added resource or a replaced resource, the number of registered devices is incremented by one, and device specifying information is added. When a resource is to be deleted, device specifying information associated with the resource specifying information is deleted from management information, and the number of registered devices is decremented by one. When a new resource is to be added, resource specifying information is newly added, the number of registered devices is incremented by one, and device specifying information is added. This registration processing is the same for management information in FIG. 34B, and management information is updated in accordance with addition, replacement, and deletion." (emphasis added)). Thus, Naito does not describe storing the first portion of the search

information in a first manager data store and storing the second portion of the search information in a second manager data store.

For the forgoing reasons, Golson and Naito, either alone or in combination, do not teach all the limitations of claims 12, 13, and 14 and, therefore, cannot anticipate the present invention as claimed. Claims 12, 13, and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record and should be allowed. All other claims, *i.e.*, claims 19-35 depend from the allowable independent claims and are, thus, also allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance, for all claims, at her earliest convenience.

Conclusion

This Amendment fully responds to the Office Action mailed on August 8, 2006. Still, that Office Action may contain arguments and rejections and that are not directly addressed by this Amendment due to the fact that they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicants believe the argument has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional

issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 8, 2006

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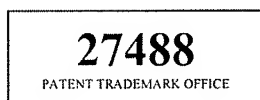
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